

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01

TRSE-00 ACDA-07 MC-02 DHA-02 /063 W

-----030402Z 044010 /12

R 022136Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6820

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 2510

TO AMEMBASSADOR TODMAN FROM AMBASSADOR BECKER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, HO

SUBJECT: FY 1977 FOREIGN MILITARY SALES, HONDURAS

1. I AM IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT'S NEW POLICY PERTAINING TO FOREIGN MILITARY SALES. OUR RECENT MESSAGE (TEGUCIGALPA 2283) SHOULD BE REVIEWED IN LIGHT OF THIS POLICY. I HAVE PERSONALLY CONSIDERED THE MESSAGE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS WITH CARE, PARTICULARLY AS IT RELATES TO THE PRESIDENT'S ARMS POLICY. THE GOH'S REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL CREDIT IS WELL FOUNDED. THE CREDIT WOULD SATISFY MANY LEGITIMATE HUMANITARIAN AND DEFENSIVE NEEDS OF A COUNTRY WITH WHICH WE HAVE A VERY SOLID FRIENDSHIP.

2. HONDURAS IS A POOR COUNTRY WHICH CANNOT READILY SERVE MANY OF ITS OWN NEEDS. HELICOPTERS AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS SERVE HUMANITARIAN AS WELL AS MILITARY NEEDS. BOTH ARE REQUIRED DURING DISASTER AND EMERGENCY CONDITIONS. IN THE PAST, WE HAVE MOUNTED LARGE-SCALE EFFORTS TO ASSIST DURING EMERGENCY CONDITIONS SUCH AS HURRICAN FIFUTM WITH ADEQUATE HELICOPTERS AND FIELD COMMUNICATIONS, US DISASTER RELIEF SUPPORT COSTS COULD BE CUT. DAY-TO-DAY EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE SUCH AS LOCATING LOST AIRCRAFT (INCLUDING POSSIBLY OUR OWN) IS ANOTHER IMPORTANT AND VISIBLE CONTRIBUTION.

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3. ALL OF THE ITEMS TO BE PURCHASED ARE ESSENTIALLY DEFENSIVE IN NATURE. THE HELICOPTERS, COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, RECONNAISSANCE VEHICLES, AND PATROL CRAFT WOULD, FOR EXAMPLE, BE VERY IMPORTANT TO COMBAT ANY GUERRILLA/INSURGENT FORCE INSPIRED OR INSERTED BY AN UNFRIENDLY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT. APPROVAL OF THE REQUEST CONTRIBUTES TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY.

4. ADDITIONALLY, THE SECURE COMMUNICATIONS NETS THE GOH DESIRES TO ESTABLISH CAN PROVIDE A RELIABLE MEANS OF DETERMINING THE TRUE SITUATION ALONG THE BORDER OF HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR. OFTEN IN THE PAST INCIDENTS HAVE PROGRESSED TOO FAR SIMPLY BECAUSE THE COMMAND IN TEGUCIGALPA HAD NO MEANS TO RAPIDLY RECEIVE ACCURATE COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BORDER AND PROVIDE TIVALLY INSTRUCTIONS IN RETURN.

5. I AM AN ADVOCATE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S ARMS POLICY AND BASED ON MY EXPERIENCES IN HONDURAS, I DO BELIEVE THE CORRECT COURSE IS APPROVAL OF THE REQUEST. HONDURAS IS TRANQUIL AND CALM; IS NOT IN VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITH COMPLETE RIGHT OF EXPRESSION AND DISSENT WITHOUT ANY REPRESSING MEASURES; AND HAS NO POLITICAL PRISONERS. ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN PROMISED IN 1979. ON ALL SIDES, HONDURAS IS SURROUNDED BY TROUBLE SPOTS, COUNTRIES WHOSE POLICIES ARE AT ODDS WITH OURS. I BELIEVE THAT SHOULD THE REQUEST BE DENIED, THE ACTION WILL BE MISUNDERSTOOD BY THE GOH.

6. I HAVE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED THIS MATTER AND IN MY OPINION IS CONSISTENT WITH ANNOUNCED U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY. THE GOH HAS MY COMPLETE SUPPORT FOR THEIR REQUESTED CREDIT INCREASE. THEIR CASE IS STRONG AND JUSTIFIED. SHOULD YOU REQUIRE ADDITIONAL JUSTIFICATION OR INFORMATION PLEASE INFORM ME IMMEDIATELY. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE.

BECKER

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Message Attributes

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